(d) the reasons for inordinate delay in appointing Judges and disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 16-2-94 there were 2 vacanies of permanent Judges and 5 vacancies of Additional Judges in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

(b) As on 30-9-93, 1,20,574 cases were pending in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

(c) and (d) The process of consultation among the Constitutional authorities for filling up the vacancies of Judges/ Additional Judges in the Punjab and Haryana High Court is on. The Government have also decided to create 4 more posts of permanent Judges and 3 posts of Additional Judges in the Punjab and Haryana High Court in addition to the sanctioned strength of 33 Permanent/ Additional Judges.

Setting up of High Court Benches

590. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of benches of the High Courts set up in different parts of the country during the last three years and the date of setting up of the benches;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a growing demand to set up more such benches; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that lawyers are agitating for the setting up of such benches of High Courts, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any commission was set up in the past to go into setting up of High Court benches in different parts of the country;

(e) if so, what were its specific recommenda tions and the action taken on each recommenda tions;

(f) whether any steps are being taken by Government to bring justice at door- step of the comman man in the near future; and

(g) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) During the last three years, two permanent High Court Benches were established, one at Imphal in Manipur with effect from 21.1.1992 and another at Agartala in Tripura with effect from 16.5.1992.

(b) and (c) The information regarding demands made from time to time by different bodies, including lawyers, asking for the establishment of High Court Benches at places away from their principal seats, is given in the attached Statement, *(see* below).

(d) The Government had set up the Jaswant Singh Commission to consider the demands for the constitution of Benches of Allahabad, Gauhati, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Madras High Courts and also the general question of having Benches of High Courts away from their principal seats and the broad principles and criteria to be followed in this regards.

(e) The Commission in its report submitted in April, 1985, recommended establishment of Benches of the High Courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras at Agra, Raipur and Madurai respectively. The Commission *inter alia* made recommendations on the general question of having Benches of the High Courts at places away from their principal seats and broad principles and criteria to be followed in regard thereto. The Commission could not report on the demand for establishment of Benches of Gauhati and Karnataka High Courts.

The specific recommendations of the Commission for establishment of Benches of the High Courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras were referred to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively in October, 1986 for their views and comments in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts. The report of the Commission, on the general question of having Benches of the High Courts was sent to all the State Governments and the High Courts for their information and guidance in September, 1987.

(0 and (g) With a view *inter alia* to bring justice at the doorstep of the common man, the Government requested the 11th Law Commission to study the problems of Judicial Reforms and made its recommendations. The Commi-

ssion made recommendations aiming at decentralisation of system of administration of justice, reforms of procedural laws, reduction/ avoidance of litigation, etc. Besides, a number of procedural and jurisdictional reforms recommended by the Malimath Committee have been commended for suitable adoption to the High Courts/ State Governments.

Statement

Demands made by different bodies asking for the establishment of Benches of High Courts at places away from their principal seats.

HIGH COURT	Places at which Benches demanded
1. Allahabad	Western Uttar Pradesh/Meerut Gorakhpur, Agra, Bareilly, Bulandshahr, etc.
2. Andhra Pradesh	Guntur, Vijaywada, Visakhapatnam, Kumool.
3. Bombay	Amravati, Pune, Kolhapur, Solapur.
4. Calcutta	Midnapore, Jalpaiguri, Siliguri, Darjeeling.
5. Gauhati	Dibrugarh, Silchar.
6. Gujarat	Rajkot, Surat, Baroda.
7. Himachal Pradesh	Mandi, Hamirpur, Dharamshala.
8. Kamataka	Hubli-Dharwar, Belgaum, Gulburga.
9. Kerala	Trivandrum, Calicut.
10. Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Raipur, Rewa.
11. Madras	Madurai, Coimbatore, Guddalore.
12. Patna	Pumea, Gaya, Muzaffarpur.
13. Punjab & Haryana	Amritsar.
14. Orissa	Sambalpur, Bolacgir, Berhampur.
IS. Rajasthan	Udaipur.

Enforcement of directions issued by Election Commission

591. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have accepted/agreed to the various directions being issued by the Election Commission in the form of code of conduct etc; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to enforce these directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARD-WAJ): (a) and (b) The Model Code of Conduct was formulated by the Election Commission of India in 1968 in consultation with the political parties for the guidance of the political parties and the contesting candidates. The Model Code of Conduct is neither required to be accepted by the Government nor is required to be enforced by it.

विधिज्ञ परिषदों में पंजीकृत अधिवक्ता

592. श्री राम रतन राम: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में विभिन्न उच्च न्यायालयों और उच्चतम न्यायालय के विधिज्ञ परिषदों में पंजीकृत अधिवक्ताओं की कुल संख्या कितनी है; और

(ख) उनमें से कितने अधिवक्ता अनुसूचित जातियों/ अनुसूचित जनजातियों के हैं?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज): (क) और (ख) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Pending cases of Dowry Death in Ahmedabad High Court

593. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN-BHAIPATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to stater

(a) the number of cases of dowry deaths and